


Diocese of West  
Missouri  
Futuring Task Group

Interim Report to the  
2011 Diocesan Convention



**MOTIVATION & MISSION**

*A long-range, comprehensive approach to developing the vision, mission and ministry of the Diocese of West Missouri for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



## Response to action of the 2009 and 2010 Diocesan Conventions

- Diocesan Merger
- Provincial Realignment
- Financial Ministries



## Resolution 2, 2010

**Resolved,** That the 121<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Convention authorize Diocesan Council to appoint a committee to consider and explore possible mergers with our neighboring dioceses



## Resolution 5, 2010

**Resolved,** That the Convention create an *ad hoc* committee to . . .

- Meet with the new Bishop to formulate how her/his vision for our diocesan ministry would impact financial needs
- Include consideration of the interplay between the level of mission and ministry expenditures and the ongoing assessment levels for the diocese.



## “Resolution 5 Committee”

May 2011 per Resolution 5, 2010:

- Core members – two elected from each deanery
- Additional members appointed by Bishop
- Committed to completing the work of Resolution 5



# Diocese of West Missouri Futuring Task Group

May 2011 - With Bishop Field's direction:

- Expanded scope of work
- Adopted long-range, comprehensive approach
- Committed to completing the work of Resolution 5 within broader context
- Drafted working mission statement
- Estimated time-frame: 18-24 months





## INITIAL PRIORITIES

*A long-range, comprehensive approach to developing the vision, mission and ministry of the Diocese of West Missouri for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



### *Diocese of West Missouri Futuring Task Group*

***Working mission statement:***

*to facilitate the ability of all individual congregations and other constituencies of the Diocese of West Missouri to thrive in their work and common life.*



## 2011 Priorities

### Resolution 5 Response Subcommittee

- Develop Initial Response to Resolution 5 while maintaining a commitment to the understanding that budget always follows mission.



## 2011 Priorities

### Vision Subcommittee



- Understand diocesan successes and challenges and develop a sense of diocesan identity



## 2011 Priorities


### Communications Subcommittee

- Communicate regularly with diocesan stakeholders about the work of the Futuring Task Group.


## RESOLUTION 5 RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE

*A long-range, comprehensive approach to developing the vision, mission and ministry of the Diocese of West Missouri for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



## Resolution 5 Response

Meet with the new Bishop to formulate how her/his vision for our diocesan ministry would impact financial needs

*"Mission and vision always come first; they come before budget, they come before staffing decisions . . . only after we discerned our mission and understand it clearly, only after we've developed a vision for our future can we go on to programs and specific plans for carrying out that mission and achieving that vision. Those plans and programs will determine the levels of staffing that are needed and the kinds of committees we need for . . . diocesan level work."*

Bishop Field



## Resolution 5 Response

Consider the interplay between the level of mission and ministry expenditures and the ongoing assessment levels for the diocese.

*"I don't know yet whether congregational assessments are going to increase or decrease as a result of our futuring work together. That depends on the shape of ministry at the diocesan level and that will be determined by the successes, challenges and dreams of the diocese. . . What we are dreaming together will determine financial resources and human resources needed to carry out the ministry that we all want to have together."*

Bishop Field, Closing Remarks – "Shaping Our Future" Forum



## Looking Toward 2013

### New format for Convention Reports

- Describe the activities of your committee/department during the past year.
- Describe how they furthered the work of the diocese and strengthened parishes and congregations. Include numbers of participants and/or people served.
- What are the plans for ministry in this area for 2012?
- How will you measure the success of this area of ministry in 2012?
- How does ministry in this area reflect the promises made in the Baptismal Covenant?



## Looking Toward 2013

### Additional Information Requested in Reports to Convention from Committees and Other Entities Funded Through the Diocesan Budget

Answers to these questions will inform the process of  
drafting the 2013 budget.





**VISIONING SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**“SHAPING OUR FUTURE” FORUMS**  
*A long-range, comprehensive approach to developing the vision, mission and ministry of the Diocese of West Missouri for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



**“Shaping Our Future” Forums**

- St. Anne’s Lee’s Summit – September 11
- Christ Church Springfield – September 25
- Grace & Holy Trinity – October 8
- Total Attendance: 288 persons



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Format



- Name five or six things that you believe the Diocese of West Missouri should celebrate because we do them well.
- Name five or six challenges or concerns you have about the work of the diocese.
- Name five or six hopes and dreams that you want the diocese to have done or be doing five years from now.
- Describe the level of energy or passion that you feel associated with each of the topics you have noted.
- Share your list with a small group, consolidate your group members’ responses and report back to other participants.



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Results

### Top Five Celebrations:

- Outreach and Social Ministries
- Ministry to and by Youth
- Worship and Liturgy
- Communication from the Bishop’s Office and various Diocesan Ministries
- Leadership Development, Lay and Clergy



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Results

### Top Five Challenges:

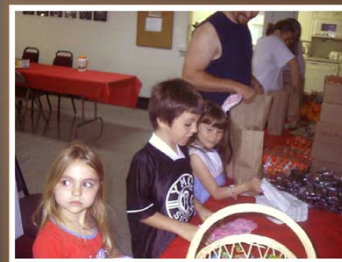
- Church/Congregational Growth
- Diocesan Budget Process
- Bishop’s Staff & Expense of Diocesan Administration
- Inter-congregational Community and Support
- Clergy Availability and Deployment

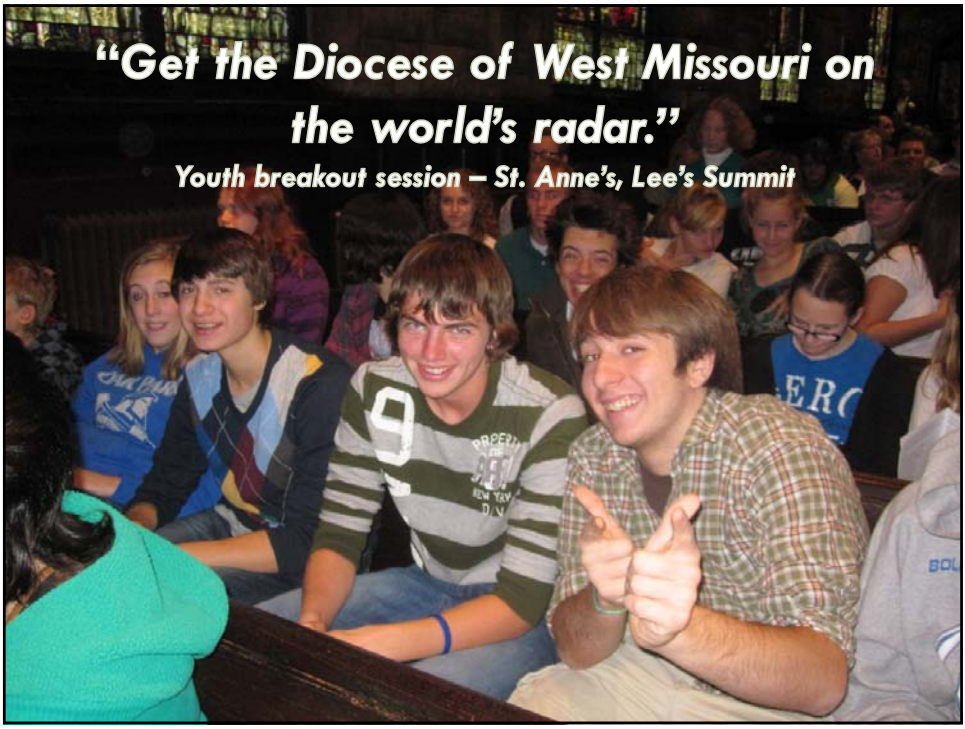


## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Results

### Top Five Dreams:

- Growth in size and number of congregations
- Expanded Ministry to Youth and Young Adults
- Inter-congregational Community and Support
- Increased Outreach and Social Ministries
- Expanded Leadership Development (Lay and Clergy)





### "Shaping Our Future" Forums Results




**Three Topics Most Often Mentioned:**

- Youth and Campus Ministry
- Outreach – Local, Regional, International
- Church Growth – Small Churches, New Starts, New Members\*

*\*account for >30% of all topics mentioned by participants in all three forums*

## “Shaping Our Future” Forums

### Next three issues:



- Community, resource sharing between congregations
- Improve and clarify budget and assessment process
- Clergy support and training, availability to congregations, talent retention, role and training of Deacons\*

*\*addition of these three accounts for 50% of all topics mentioned*



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums

### Next four issues:

- Music and liturgy: collaboration, training, workshops
- Communication by the bishop; eSpirit, interactive publications, diocesan office
- Diocesan level staffing issues: “What do we do with the diocesan staff?”
- Training for lay ministry, leadership – distance learning, technology\*



*\*addition of these topics accounts for 67% of all topics mentioned*



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums

### Additional Topics:

- Evangelism, Visibility, Marketing, PR, Technology
- Diversity and inclusion
- Better understanding of small church issues
- Improve adult education and formation
- Overcome regional we/they attitudes
- Ministry to Spanish-speaking persons; bi-lingual communications
- Articulate 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mission and vision; develop common purpose and focus\*

*\*addition of these topics accounts for 87% of total mentions at the three forums*



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Results

**These 17 ministry priorities account for 87% of total mentions in all categories – celebration, challenge, dream - by individual participants across the three forums**



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Results



Data indicate that interest is focused in and identifiable and fairly compact group of ministry priorities.



Interest in these areas of priority was consistent across divisions of age, order of ministry and region of the diocese.



## “Shaping Our Future” Forums Results



The data provide a clear and consistent set of priorities for the work of the Futuring Task Group over the next 12-18 months.






**FUTURING TASK GROUP NEXT STEPS**

*A long-range, comprehensive approach to developing the vision, mission and ministry of the Diocese of West Missouri for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

# Next Steps

A proposal for discussion and expression of the Mind of the 2011 Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri

